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### What's News At Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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# WHAT'S NEWS

## AT RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

Vol. 8, No. 16 May 2, 1988

### Cap and Gown Convocation May 4th

Commencement season begins Wednesday, May 4, as Rhode Island College holds its annual Cap and Gown Convocation.

Beginning at 12:30 p.m. in Roberts Hall auditorium with a processional by hooded and robed members of the Class of 1988, as well as faculty, College administrators and others, it is a prelude to the spring commencement here on May 21 when approximately 1,000 undergraduate and graduate students will receive their degrees.

For the seniors, the Cap and Gown rite is marked by their investiture for the first time with formal academic attire, while those with outstanding academic achievement to their credit will be cited with departmental awards and citations.

Greetings to the Class of 1988 will be rendered by College President Carol J. Guardo, who will conduct the investiture rites.

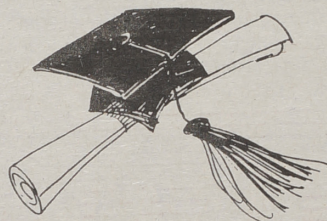
Robert E. Viens, associate professor of physical sciences, will deliver the convocation address. Lisa Ann Scotti, class president, will present the class gift.

Bearer of the Del Sesto Mace in procession will be Neil I. Gonsalves, chair of the Council of Rhode Island College. The national anthem will be sung by Candace A. Jennings. Musical selections will be performed by the College Wind Ensemble under the direction of Francis M. Marciniak. The Gold Key Society will supply the student marshals.

A reception for the graduates, hosted by President Guardo, will follow on the Roberts Hall southeast lawn.

Announcement of students selected for *Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges* will be made by Dr. Gary M. Penfield, vice president for student affairs. Departmental awards will be presented by

Provost Willard F. Entemann with the assistance of presenting departmental chairs. Awards which will be presented, the pre-



sending departments and the recipients are: Bertha Christina Andrews Emin Award for Scholastic Excellence (Alumni), David J. Moscicki; Bertha Christina Andrews Award for Outstanding Achievement

(Alumni), Lisa Ann Scotti; John E. Hetherman Award (Athletics) Wayne T. Griffin; Helen M. Murphy Award (Athletics) Sharon L. Wishnevsky.

Also, James Houston Award in Anthropology/Geography (Anthropology/Geography), Linda A. Caduto; Studio Art Award (Art), Ann E. Gale; Theodore Lemeska Award (Biology), Betty A. Rogers; W. Christina Carlson Award (Biology), Octavio A. Borges; Rhode Island College Theatre Award (Communications/Theatre), Susan E. Iacobellis.

Also, John Silva Memorial Scholastic Award (Economics/Management), Donna L. DiQuinzio; Wall Street Journal Award (Economics/Management), Donna L. DiQuinzio; Elementary Education Faculty Award (Elementary Education), Zovig

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### With diploma in hand, Bulgarian is Harvard bound

*Mariana Oller to graduate here May 21*

by George LaTour

How, you may want to know, does one get to go to Harvard University on full scholarship?

Under normal circumstances, it's difficult enough just to get admitted to the top-ranked Ivy League institution that has been alma mater to presidents and kings!

You might ask Mariana (Simeonova) Oller of Providence, a Rhode Island College senior who will graduate May 21 with major academic credit in history.

The 24-year-old transfer student from the University of Sofia ("Kliment Okhrodski" is the formal name) in Bulgaria starts her graduate studies at Harvard

next fall under a full-tuition-and-fees scholarship plus a stipend for living expenses.

Dr. J. Stanley Lemons, a professor of history here, estimates that will be worth some \$20,000 per year for the first two years. After that, explains Mariana, Harvard will allow her—a citizen of Bulgaria—to teach for a full remission of tuition for another two to three years.

It will take nearly five years of graduate work for her to obtain her doctorate in history.

Mariana indicates she "might be studying Russian and some European" histories at Harvard.



MARIANA OLLER

### Has full tuition and fees scholarship

If you did ask her how one gets to Harvard on a full scholarship, she might point out that graduating from Rhode Island College with a 3.9 (out of a possible 4.0) average, being well-traveled throughout the Eastern or Soviet Bloc of nations, and having fluency in Russian as well as her native Bulgarian and English, and being versed in French and Macedonian as well as some of the classic languages like Latin, might have helped.

That, and the fact that she is married to an American—Thomas Oller, now writing his dissertation on Slavic linguistics at Brown University—and that she does intend to become an American citizen and give up her Bulgarian citizenship, may also have influenced Harvard.

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### Learning plans aimed at helping students 'take control of their lives'

by Denis Bessette

A three-year \$250,000 federally funded program, designed to improve the quality of education at Rhode Island College, has itself provided a learning experience for the students and administrators involved.

The grant from the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE), is being used to help freshmen develop their own Personal Learning Plan (PLP) and to provide value-added assessment of a student's college experience, explained Patricia A. Soellner, assistant to the provost. It is considered to be "pioneering" in that it gives back to the students information which can make it possible for them to take better control of their lives, not only as students but in every aspect, she said.

The value-added concept was first ex-

plored by Dr. Willard F. Enteman, Rhode Island College provost and vice-president for academic affairs, and officials of six other colleges starting in 1982.

Like most pioneers, however, the participants occasionally have seen fit to alter their course a few times to reach their destination.

Dr. David P. Cavanagh was appointed in February 1987 as the FIPSE grant project director for value-added assessment. An authority on statistical analysis of population groups, it was his responsibility to design the questionnaire which would provide a profile of an incoming freshman.

The first full participation by incoming traditional-age freshmen took place last summer at the College. Some 900 students

(continued on page 6)

### Mock town meeting to evaluate pros and cons of relocation of genetic engineering firm

With the observation that "increasingly Rhode Island will have more of these companies because of its proximity to Boston," a Rhode Island College biology class will conduct a mock town meeting Tuesday, May 3, to evaluate a proposal by a fictional company to set up a genetic engineering firm here.

Site of the mock meeting will be the College's Fogarty Life Science Building 050 (lecture hall) at 6 p.m.

The class—Biology 350—has printed a formal proposal of over 100 pages with sup-

porting "documentation" under the direction of Dr. Lloyd H. Matsumoto, an assistant professor of biology, entitled "Key Issues in Genetic Engineering."

"One purpose of the presentation," says the professor, "is to educate the public about genetic engineering. Intelligent people who don't know a lot about science are ignorant about this (subject)."

"This will be a good opportunity for city and town officials throughout the state who might be considering such a move (bringing

(continued on page 6)

### Commencement Gala Slated for May 20

Plans are currently in progress for one of the more festive social occasions of the academic year...the Commencement Gala.

President Carol J. Guardo will be inviting all of the College's faculty and staff to celebrate commencement at this year's event which will be held on Friday, May 20 in Donovan Dining Center.

Tickets for the evening are \$15 and will be available through the Office of Conferences and Special Events (Roberts Hall 310, Ext. 8022) beginning on Monday, May 2.

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SENATE INTERNS: Rhode Island College students (l to r) Christina Charello, Justin O'Rourke, Letizia Pernarella and Patricia Coyne pose with Sen. Claiborne Pell in his Washington office recently. The political science majors spent a week in the nation's capitol, viewing first hand the inner workings of government through the College's senate internship program which is directed here by Dr. Herbert Winter, professor of political science. Winter is also the statewide director of the program.

## Focus on the Faculty and Staff

Dr. Mary Ball Howkins, associate professor of art, participated in a symposium held on April 6 at Brown University.

The symposium, "National Museum of Women in the Arts: Directions the Museum might take by the Year 2000," was jointly sponsored by the Pembroke Center for Research and the Rhode Island State Committee of the National Museum of Women in the Arts.

Dr. Francis Marciniak, professor of music, participated in a panel discussion on "Organization, Administration and Development of Adult Bands" at the Eastern Divisional Conference of the College Band Directors National Association. The conference was held on April 8-10 at the University of New Hampshire in Durham.

Vernon J. Williams Jr., assistant professor of history, received a contract for his book-length manuscript, "From A Caste To A Minority: Changing Attitudes of American Sociologists Toward Afro-Americans, 1896-1945," from Greenwood Press in February 1988.

Four of his essays, "Slow and Protracted Change: Northern Sociology and the 'Negro Problem,' 1986-1910"; "Southern Sociology Defends Jim Crow, 1900-1910"; "Franz Boas' Changing Attitudes Toward Afro-Americans, 1894-1925"; and "E. Franklin Frazier's Social and Cultural Determinism and the Black Family, 1931-1940," will appear in the New York University Institute of Afro-American Affairs' Martin Luther King, Jr. Monograph Series.

It will be entitled "The Bicentennial of the United States Constitution: Post Reflections on the Black Experience" and will be published in May 1988.

In addition, Williams presented a paper in February, entitled "Race and Class in American Sociological Theory" at the Hofstra University Conference.

This article is the genesis of his second book.

Dr. P. William Hutchinson, of the department of communications and theatre performed recently at the Rhode Island School of Design Museum of Art in a Waste-paper Theatre production of James Schevill's new play "Ape-God; or Who Killed Dian Fossey."

Kathleen M. Laquale, athletic therapist, lectured at the 1988 American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance convention held in Kansas City, Mo.

### Gets \$84,830 grant to train teachers of handicapped

Rhode Island College has received a three-year federal grant to train teachers of the profoundly handicapped. Dr. Richard N. Keogh, director of research and grants administration has announced.

The proposal, submitted by Dr. A. Anthony Antosh, associate professor of special education, calls for the training of an additional 22 teachers in each year of the program. The openings will be advertised to individuals who serve those with developmental disabilities throughout the New England region, according to John Gleason, assistant professor of special education.

Those accepted into the program will receive both classroom and practical training in a school setting, Keogh explained.

The clients serviced by the grant will be school-age individuals. They will receive instruction as well as assistance in making the transition from a school environment to a work environment, said Gleason.

The grant provides for \$84,830 in the first year, of which about \$33,000 will go for tuition and stipends for the special education teacher-trainees.

"This grant assures Rhode Island College that we'll be able to generate quite a few teachers to help the profoundly handicapped over the next three years," Keogh said.

## Research and Grants Administration: Request for proposals

The Office of Research and Grants Administration will be providing information about requests for proposals (RFPs) on a regular basis in this column. Anyone interested in obtaining further information or applications and guidelines need only circle the number of the RFP on the coupon below and send it to the office in Roberts 312.

**1. Canadian Embassy: Canadian Studies.** Grant program opportunities are being offered by the Canadian Embassy. These programs are designed to promote teaching and research in Canadian studies for both higher education institutes and scholars. Programs include Canadian Studies Program Development Grants, Outreach Grants, and Conference Grants. Grants are provided to help defray the cost of items such as travel, honoraria, materials, printing, secretarial services, computer time and publishing fees. Each program begins on Aug. 1, 1988 and ends on June 15, 1989. The funds for these programs vary, but range from \$1,000 to \$25,000 per year. DEADLINE: June 15.

**2. Council for International Exchange of Scholars: Indo-U.S. Subcommission on Education and Culture.** Twelve long-term (six to ten months) and nine short-term (two to three months) research fellowships offer an opportunity for U. S. researchers to conduct collaborative research in India in all academic fields, except clinical medicine, and in professional areas such as architecture, business, law, museum work, and creative arts. The program is designed for U.S. citizens holding a Ph.D. or its equivalent who are not Indian specialists and who have had limited or no prior experience in India. DEADLINE: June 15

**3. U. S. Department of Education: Law-Related Education: Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution.** For FY 88, the Department will use \$950,000 from the Law-Related Education appropriation for projects that will assist elementary and secondary schools in running projects related to the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution. In FY 88, education staff tentatively expect to restrict the range of allowable activities to projects that address the topic of the Federalist Papers. DEADLINE: June 1988.

**4. U.S. Department of Education: EESA Discretionary Fund: Science and Math Education Projects.** Supports demonstration projects designed to improve the quality of K-12 teaching in mathematics, science, computer learning and critical foreign languages. For this FY 88 supplemental competition, an absolute priority is placed on projects that would improve teacher qualifications in these areas through the use of workshops, seminars, and institutes that familiarize teachers and administrators with examples of outstanding uses of technology in educational instruction. \$1 million is available to fund 10 awards. DEADLINE: June 3.

**5. U.S. Department of Education: Workplace Literacy Partnership Grants.** Supports demonstration projects that teach literacy skills needed in the workplace

through exemplary education partnerships between business industry, or labor organizations and education organizations. In FY 88, \$9.5 million is available to about 32 awards. The estimated size of each award is around \$300,000 for up to a 15 month period. DEADLINE: June 6.

**6. United States Army Research Institute: Basic Research in Behavioral and Social Sciences.** Supports behavioral and social research on which to build new technologies for improving Army personnel efficiency. Current program areas are: 1) Planning, Problem Solving and Decision Making; 2) Unit Performance; 3) Skill Building Technologies; and 4) Designing Systems for People. Single investigator projects will be considered, but collaborative projects are preferred. Concept papers are due by June 15 and final proposals by August 31. Research programs can range from one to five years. Program materials explain funding areas in greater detail. DEADLINE: June 15.

**7. American Council of Learned Societies: China Conference Travel Grants.** Awards provide partial travel support to allow specialists in the study of China to accept invitations to present their research results at conferences held in the People's Republic of China. Conferences must be concerned with the humanities or social sciences, and preference is given to those dealing with China area studies. Applications must be submitted by Oct. 1, Jan. 1, April 1, or July 1 for conferences to begin two to four months later. DEADLINE: July 1.

**8. American Council of Learned Societies: Travel Grants to International Meetings for Humanists.** Travel grants enable humanities scholars, as well as social scientists and legal scholars whose interests are historical and philosophical to participate in international scholarly meetings held outside North America. Only those reading papers or having major official roles in such meetings are eligible, and preference is given to younger scholars or those who have not received previous travel grants. DEADLINE: July 1.

### Office of Research and Grants Administration

Please send me information on the following programs: (Circle programs of interest to you.)

1. 2. 3. 4.  
5. 6. 7. 8.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Campus Address: \_\_\_\_\_

5/02/88

### Receives NEH grant

Dr. Amritjit Singh, an associate professor of English at Rhode Island College, has received a grant of \$3,500 from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for a research project entitled, "Richard Wright's Later Non-fiction: The Novelist and His Politics."

Professor Singh is one of 220 American scholars out of 1,368 applicants nationwide to receive an NEH summer stipend.

The NEH Summer Stipends program allows scholars who are affiliated with universities and colleges, as well as independent scholars, to devote two consecutive months of fulltime study and research to humanities topics such as literature, history, philosophy, languages and art history.

The recipient's research may be completed during the two-month period or it may be part of a long-term project, according to the NEH.

### Blood Drive

A blood drive will be held on Wednesday, May 4, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Student Union ballroom.

## WHAT'S NEWS AT RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

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# The Second Front Page

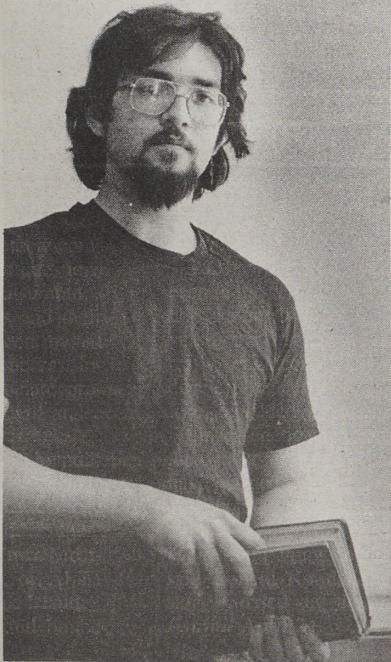
WHAT'S NEWS AT RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

## John Teehan wins Mowry Fellowship for study in England

### 3rd time honor comes to R.I. College

John Teehan of Westerly, a junior at Rhode Island College, has won the Elisha Mowry Fellowship for study in Great Britain and Ireland.

In making the announcement, Wheaton College Prof. Samuel Chase Coale noted that this is the third consecutive year that the scholarship has been awarded to a student here.



JOHN TEEHAN

"It's a real accolade to Rhode Island College," he observed.

The scholarship, offered by the English Speaking Union, Providence branch, will take Teehan to the University of Exeter, England for a semester, beginning January 1989.

While in England, Teehan will study the famed Exeter Book one of the largest known collections of Old English poetry. His work will culminate in the writing of a thesis on the cultural influences on Anglo-Saxon poets of the 10th and 11th centuries.

A former Westerly High School newspaper editor, Teehan has served as treasurer of *Shoreline*, the Rhode Island College student literary magazine.

He has also been active in the English Club and has spent three years as a tutor at the College's Writing Center.

During his collegiate career, Teehan has been a member of the Writer's Group, an informal organization of student writers of poetry and fiction.

The Rhode Island College scholar credits Dr. Meredith McMunn, associate professor of English, with spurring his interest in Medieval poetry.

## R.I. College set to host teacher induction conference

Beginning teaching can be a difficult experience.

Suddenly, you're no longer the student, learning how it's done from textbooks or other teachers.

Now you are the teacher, expected to adjust to the school and the district, prepare and teach five or six classes, maintain discipline in the classroom and get along with parents, fellow teachers and administrators.

"It can be overwhelming," said Dr. Robert Schuck, dean of Rhode Island College's School of Education and Human Development.

To help new teachers to better cope with the first or "induction" year, Schuck has helped organize a national conference to be held in Providence next month.

The conference, entitled "A Leadership Academy on Planning and Implementing Induction and Beginning Teacher Support Programs" will take place on June 10-12 at the downtown Providence Holiday Inn.

About 100 educators from across the country, including superintendents, principals, state education department staff and intern supervisors are expected to attend.

Co-sponsors are the Association of Teacher Educators and the National Academy for Leadership in Teacher Education.

In recent years, school officials have become aware of the need to provide more support to beginning teachers, Schuck noted.

"In the past, the principal has been the main person to do this, but it has usually

been rather haphazard due to the many other responsibilities that fall upon principals," he explained.

Today, he said, most educators agree that a formal system of guiding and monitoring the development of a new teacher is needed.

The structure of beginning teacher support programs varies from one locale to another, according to Schuck.

In some cases, one or more teachers "in-house" (on the same faculty) serve as "mentor teachers" to younger, less experienced teachers. In other instances, an administrator appointed by the school district may monitor a new teacher.

"Many states, including Rhode Island, are just starting to address the issue of teacher induction," Schuck said.

The dean noted that one of the main purposes of the conference will be to present models of successful induction programs and to establish a network of resources for those persons responsible for designing induction programs in their communities.

Dean Schuck, a past president of the Association of Teacher Educators, commented that Providence was one of 10 sites which had been considered for the conference.

He termed the decision to hold the event here "a vote of confidence" in the College's teacher education program and the state as a whole.

Schuck also praised the effort of Rhode Island College President Carol J. Guardo.

"We could not have gotten it here without her wholehearted support," he concluded.

## 'It's a wonderful life'



'IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE' is the subject of Dr. J. Stanley Lemons' Thorp Lecture in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences on April 21 in Fogarty Life Science Building. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley.)

## Arlene Violet to speak at dinner here May 5

The Rhode Island College Communications Organization is planning a dinner to celebrate the recent achievements of communications majors on May 5 at the Providence Marriott Inn.

Keynote speaker will be Arlene Violet, former state attorney general and current best-selling author.

Achievement awards will be given, including those for Communications Talent, Alumni Achievement and Scholarship.

Barbara Meek of TV's *Archie Bunker's Place*, will make a special appearance during the dinner, and Susan Iacobellis, president of the Rhode Island College Theatre Organization, will direct a cabaret performance. Performers are Stacey Ledoux, Candy Jennings, Chris Fratiello and Anthony Cinelli. Tim Robertson, who will serve as music director, will provide piano accompaniment.

Tickets are \$14 and include dancing to music by a disc jockey.

For tickets and information, contact the communications and theatre department at 456-8270.

## 19 staff members cited for their performance at R.I. College

Some 19 staff members from both the professional and classified services have been cited for their "exceptional service to the College" during the 1987-88 academic year and as such will share in \$11,500 through the Outstanding Performance Awards Program.

"It's gratifying that there are so many people at the College who are doing outstanding jobs," said President Carol J. Guardo.

"It was difficult to select the 19 we've recognized this year," she said, adding, "We appreciate their good efforts as well as those of their many colleagues."

The staff—nominated by the President's Council and selected by the president—will receive cash bonuses ranging from \$300 to \$1,000 in this, the second year of the program.

Funds come from the Mary A. Weber Fund within the Rhode Island College Foundation.

Last year, awards totaling \$9,000 were awarded to professional staff members only. This year, at the president's request, the amount of the funds to be made available was increased "in order to include nominations of any College staff member."

Criteria for selection include a high degree of productivity, exceptional quality work, initiative in the performance of responsibilities, dependability, effective interpersonal relations, and a commitment to and advancement of the College agenda.

For Jeanne A. Boichat of North Provi-

dence, a senior clerk-typist in the records office, winning has "helped an awful lot" for a planned trip to Italy this summer.

"This is the most gratifying thing that has happened to me here. It gives you a lot of incentive," she attests.

To Romeo (Ray) L. Santurri of the Office Services mail room, selection brought "a nice feeling...to know that people appreciate it (a positive attitude)."

Other winners are James R. Bucci, assistant director of maintenance and operations; Ann T. Carnevale, assistant business management officer in the controller's office; Suzanne J. Charello, employment relations officer in the personnel office, and Carolyn D'Amico.

Also, Carmelo DiCicco of custodial services; Vincent R. Flemming, associate director of the Campus Center; John C. George, senior cook in the College dining services; Donna L. Konicki, manager of systems development in the computer center, and Kathleen M. Laquale, athletic therapist.

Also, Ida E. Melino, senior clerk-stenographer in the office of security and safety; Russell J. Monaghan, a technical director for Roberts Hall auditorium; John J. Palombo, a carpenter supervisor, and Josephine V. Ponanski of the College dining services.

Also, Dolores A. Passarelli, director of new student programs; Raymond J. Ragosta, a publications writer/editor, and Elaine Wilczek, a senior programmer/analyst in the computer center.





**PICKIN' FLOWERS** at the Faculty Center April 27 are (l-r) Cynthia Bertonecini, Barbara Audette and Donna Guarini, who were among the more than 150 clerical staff members at the College honored by President Carol J. Guardo on National Secretary's Day. *What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley.*



**SPANISH THEATRE** at Rhode Island College (STRIC) performs *La Zapatera Prodigiosa* (The Shoemaker's Wife) in Gaige Hall auditorium last weekend. Cast members above are Dennis Morrell of Cranston and Margarita Gonzalez of Pawtucket. The two-act farce by Spanish playwright Federico Garcia Lorca marked the eighth theatre production by STRIC.



**SOVIET CHEMIST:** On April 18 Theodore Kizelov was guest lecturer in Dr. Herbert Winter's 'Government and Politics in Communist Society' class. Kizelov, a chemist, left the Soviet Union last January and now lives in Woonsocket. *(What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley.)*

## Guardo addresses regional honors council conference

President Carol J. Guardo of Rhode Island College delivered the keynote address to some 275 honors program directors and students at the 17th annual conference of the northeast region of the National Collegiate Honors Council April 15 at Providence's Omni Biltmore.

Termed "the best attended" council conference in the history of the northeast region, Dr. Spencer Hall, director of Rhode Island College's Honors Program and local conference chair, said more than 30 workshops were held over that weekend.

Theme of the conference was "Conditions of Excellence in Honors Education." It was

the first time for the conference in Rhode Island and the first to be hosted by Rhode Island College, said Hall.

Guardo's keynote address was entitled "Between In-Put and Out-Put." Douglas Heath, professor emeritus from Haverford College in Pennsylvania, spoke on the nature of SAT scores, and the need for class grades to be questioned as predictors of future success for students both in college and beyond.

Conference attendees were later entertained by the College Chamber Singers under the direction of Dr. Edward Markward.

## Reading/Study Skills Center: Students Helping Students!

by Elaine Bates

Ruth Gaipo, a sophomore, was having trouble in a psychology course and came to the Reading and Study Skills Center for help. Marcia Campbell, assistant coordinator for the center, worked with Gaipo showing her a practical approach to reading the textbook. Gaipo related, "by getting familiar with the book, it enhanced my study habits and my grade improved in the course."

Gaipo gave credit to the center and encourages other student's to use the center as an alternative to "struggling with a course."

During her 12 years as coordinator for the center, Dr. Marylyn G. Eanet, professor of Elementary Education has seen major changes in the center. She has watched it grow from only two bookcases and a small

things like poor study habits, inadequate notetaking or test anxiety" she related.

"Students take this knowledge and apply the techniques learned and get better grades," McLaughlin related.

To help students read and comprehend history assignments, a seven-step plan was implemented by Campbell and McLaughlin. Some of the steps include: reading the chapter title; looking at the pictures and maps; reading the introduction section headings and sub headings and then *think* about what you have read; finally, reviewing notes, answering study-guide questions and quizzing themselves to see if they know the material. The complete seven-step plan is available to all students at the center.



**READY AND WAITING:** staff of the Reading and Study Skills Center ready and willing to help students are (l to r seated) Marilyn Eanet, coordinator of the center, Sharon Mercado, Stephen Stanzione, (l to r standing) Mary Vinton, Marsha Campbell, Mike Fowler and Phil Sission. Other staff members not present are Anna Safi, Bob Wonders, and Sandi McLaughlin. *(What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)*

staff, to a fully equipped center stocked with resource material and a staff of teaching assistants and student tutors. The center provides academic study support to over 400 Rhode Island College students a year.

It is geared to help the students to comprehend what is read, build a better vocabulary, take better notes and learn how to take an exam with confidence, said Eanet.

"Students who come in here do not feel they are in control of their studies," said Campbell.

Working with the student, the staff tries to sort out all the material to devise a plan to find a balance between work and school.

Teaching assistant Sandi McLaughlin said the first thing a tutor will do is make an assessment of the student's problem.

"Usually we find it to be a combination of

"One of the biggest problems we see in students is their lack of confidence," said Mike Fowler, student tutor. He added, "the key to studying history, is to refer to it as happening in sequences."

Fowler related "it's hard for a person to walk into a new environment and admit they need help, but we put them right at ease." If students can understand the material and put it to practical use, they begin to learn it, he added.

The staff of teaching assistants and student tutors are: Mary Vinton, Phil Sisson, Anna Safi, Sandi McLaughlin, Mike Fowler, Bob Woods, Stephen Stanzione and Sharon Mercado.

The center is located in Craig Lee, Room 224, and is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.







## With diploma in hand, Bulgarian is Harvard bound

(continued from page 1)

It's not that she doesn't love her homeland. She does. It's just that she and Tom, as she calls him (in good old American informality), will make their home here and she'll no longer need Bulgarian citizenship. That, and the fact that they expect to travel extensively with two passports "is too complicated," she assures.

"As long as we have the money, we'll travel," she says, explaining that she and her husband both "like nature and ruins" as opposed to modern cities.

The Ollers—who had met at the University of Sofia during the 1984-85 academic year—hope to "teach, do research and work together" after their formal educations are complete, relates Mariana.

She has already been to the Soviet Union "as a tourist" and Yugoslavia "visiting relatives." Since getting married three years ago this month, she and Tom have traveled to Europe twice—to Rome and Macedonia.

Mariana's mother and a married brother live in Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria. Her father is deceased.

"We were a small family, typical of Bulgaria," she relates.

Mariana says the climate in New England is like that in Bulgaria. "I like New England," she says.

When asked about the rest of the country, some parts of which she and Tom have already visited, she responded, "Yeah, I like it very much."

## ★ GENETIC

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in a genetic engineering firm to their community) to be aware of the type of questions they should be asking," says Matsumoto.

He reports that several classes and their instructors at the College have been invited to participate and express their concerns, including Dr. Sheri L. Smith, associate professor of philosophy, "who will raise questions of medical ethics."

Matsumoto says the audience will be polled at the end of the evening and the results made public. All members of the College community and public are invited.

"You are invited to attend: A Town Meeting to Consider the Relocation of Alpha Helix, Inc. to Bedford Falls, Rhode Island," reads the cover of the printed and bound

presentation.

The subject of genetic engineering has been in the news in past weeks following the U.S. Patent Office's issuing to Harvard University the first patent for an animal, a genetically engineered laboratory mouse that develops cancer more quickly and is, therefore, of added value to cancer researchers.

Since genetic engineering was disclosed to the world in the 1970s, "many scientists have warned that the powerful new technology would place in the hands of man the ability to alter the genetic endowment of every living thing, including man himself," said Ronald Kotulak in a *Chicago Times* story carried in the *Providence Sunday Journal* April 24.

## ★ GALA

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According to Kathryn Sasso, who is coordinating commencement activities, the event will get underway with a reception on the patio of the dining center (weather permitting) at 6:30 p.m. A buffet, featuring steamship round of beef "and other delights" will be served at 7:30. Light music for those who wish to dance will be provided by Paul Borrelli's Orchestra following dinner.

Sasso indicates that, while there is no formal program for the evening's activities, President Guardo will introduce this year's honorary degree recipients. In keeping with a practice she began at last year's Gala, she will also recognize those faculty and staff who are preparing to retire (or who have retired during this past year) from the College. See story below.

Members of the College community are encouraged by Sasso to turn out for the event individually—or in groups large or small. Reservations of tables will be taken for groups of six or more.

"It's a fine way to gather and wish our retirees well and also a nice opportunity to congratulate those whom the College chooses to honor with the special distinction of an honorary degree," says Sasso. Watch for your invitation in the campus mail!

## Retirees to be honored

A number of faculty and staff members of Rhode Island College who have or will be retiring this year, some with more than 25 years of service, will be recognized by College President Carol J. Guardo at the annual Commencement Gala Friday, May 20.

Among them are: Rita L. Couture of Central Falls, an associate professor of modern languages; Barbara S. Goldstein of Cranston, coordinator of the Learning Center; Dr. Mary Ann Hawkes of Newton,

Mass., a professor of sociology and former department chair, and Dr. William H. Lawton of Providence, director of laboratory experiences.

Also, Dr. Eileen A. Maynard of North Providence, a professor in the department of anthropology/geography; Dr. Donald C. Werner of Cranston, a professor of psychology, and Dr. James E. White Jr. of Slatersville, a professor of English.

RECEPTION IN HONOR of Dr. James E. White Jr., professor of English, was held April 27 in Roberts Hall Alumni Lounge. White retires after some 32 years on the Rhode Island College faculty. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley.)

## ★ CAP 'N GOWN

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Vichabian; Jean Garrigue Award (English), Janet L. Massa; Yetta Rauch Melcer Dance Award (Health/Physical Education), Debra A. Meunier.

Also, Claiborne deB. Pell Award (History), Matthew J. Kukulka; Epsilon Pi Tau, Beta Sigma Chapter Award (Industrial Education), Rene P. Horent and Kenneth L. McCarthy; Richard A. Howland Computer Science Award (Mathematics/Computer Science), Eric J. Emerson and Elizabeth M. Fagundes; Christopher R. Mitchell Award (Mathematics/Computer Science), Donna J. Henry.

Also, Nelson A. Guertin Memorial Award—French (Modern Languages), Luara J. Sunderland; Nelson A. Guertin Memorial Award—Spanish (Modern Languages), Yolanda Nieves; Tegu Polyglot Award (Modern Languages), Zovig Vichabian; Canton Jacob Hohenemser Award (Music), Paula J. Roy.

Also, Nursing Faculty Award—Generic (Nursing), Donna Crawford; Nursing Faculty Award—R.N. (Nursing), Dianne E. Reilly; Philosophy Faculty Award (Philosophy) Paul Caldarella; American Institute of Chemists Award (Physical Sciences), Octavio A. Borges; Ronald J. Boruch Award (Physical Sciences), Suzanne E. Doucette; North Providence League of Women Voters Award (Political Science), Christina C. Charello; John H. Chafee Award (Political Science), Richard E. Farley.

Also, Psychology Faculty Senior Award (Psychology) Michelle A. Martineau; Lauris B. Whitman Award in Sociology (Sociology), Cynthia L. Williams; Bachelor of Social Work Program Award for Academic Excellence (Bachelor of Social Work Program) Patricia M. Inman and Deborah K. Lloyd; Josephine A. Stillings Award (Special Education), Lisa M. Hanrahan and Deborah J. O'Connor.

## ★ LEARNING

(continued from page 1)

answered the questionnaire either on campus or through the mail.

Among other things, the questionnaire asks the student whether he or she will be living on-or-off campus, along or with others; their commuting time; whether they plan to work while attending college and how many hours; how many hours per week they plan to spend on social or leisure activities; their past study habits; academic and personal goals for college; and which, if any, college clubs or organizations they plan to join.

The responses to these questions are combined with the student's admission information including his or her high school transcript and SAT scores to produce the PLP for that individual.

The students who answered the questionnaire last summer received their PLP's in November. An additional 34 incoming freshmen were given the questionnaire which was transformed into an interactive computer process at January orientation and received their PLP's in March. (It is hoped the time interval can be cut down in the future, said Soellner).

Included in the learning plan are a summary of answers to the questionnaire, study hints, suggestions for campus involvement, an explanation of college graduation requirements and a section on the importance of time management, complete with "time budget" forms.

In addition, each student received a one-page personal profile at Orientation (to be expanded to three pages) to share with his or her faculty advisor for general direction and assistance in preparing a time budget.

The idea of time budgeting is perhaps the key component of the PLP.

"Most students entering college have no idea of the amount of time school is going to take," Soellner explained. "Their expectations are usually based on their high school experience."

A rule of thumb used by college officials is that a student should spend two hours studying for each hour of classroom instruction. And, a good deal of that study time should be spent in the library, researching papers and projects, a mostly new experience for most incoming freshmen.

Adding up the demands of college, job, family, friends, social events, a favorite TV show, hobbies and interests, along with the many hours spent simply eating or sleeping, often produces a sum greater than the 168 hours to which we are all limited in any given week.

Obviously, something has to go.

Too often, officials say, that "something" is school. Some 30 percent of Rhode Island College students drop out in the first three semesters, according to the latest figures from the Office of Institutional Research and Planning.

"The learning plans are designed to make students conscious of the different elements in their lives," Soellner said.

"If they are conscious of these competing factors, they should be better able to take control of their lives," she added.

The College community expects students to be flexible and to plan on investing a lot of time in school, Soellner noted. However, she pointed out, that, at times, reducing one's course load or leaving school temporarily may be the best option if a career opportunity or family concern seems to be a more immediate priority at the time.

The College administration is looking for

guidance from the faculty on improving the advising system, Soellner commented.

She also invited any faculty or staff member interested in joining a faculty advisory committee on the learning plan to contact her at 456-8113.

As part of the PLP/value added assessment, students are expected to consult their learning plans on a regular basis and to update administrators.

The administration intends to do an evaluation of the plan and one way has been to do a phone survey of 200 students in December asking their opinion of their PLP experience.

"Overall, we received a positive reaction," she reported. "They liked the time budget form and the daily activity chart particularly."

One negative response heard repeatedly, however, was that the PLP "sounded like a computer." That's a consideration that is being addressed right away.

To gain continuing input from students, a PLP Committee, consisting of 12 students, was established.

Meeting every other week, the group recommends ways to improve the PLP process. Generally, the students meet without an administration member present (under the guidance of a student coordinator) and their recommendations are more than likely to be adopted according to Soellner.

"Their recommendations have been really good," she said.

Specific suggestions, such as how to transform data obtained from students via computer into a more human, positive-sounding style will be incorporated into future learning plans, Soellner assured. Dr. Douglas Peterson, visiting professor from Hood College in Frederick, Md., has been working on this aspect of the program, she said.

Commented Soellner: "I'm sure it will take the three years of the grant and beyond to get this just the way we would like it."

A possible addition to future learning plans is the new Student Potential Program, funded through a grant from the Governor's Incentive Fund for higher education.

Under this program, some 150 students ranging from freshmen to seniors, chosen at random, were to be interviewed between February 15 and April 29.

Their responses were coded to determine the extent to which each of them possessed 11 different qualities deemed vital to college success. Those qualities are: initiative, persistence, creativity, planning, critical thinking, restraint, leadership, influence, self-confidence, interpersonal diagnosis and responsiveness.

A feedback session is to be held with each participant.

"Our five assessment counselors have found a big difference between freshmen and seniors," Soellner reported. "In most cases, they show a genuine personal growth, especially in such things as interpersonal skills and critical-thinking skills."

Soellner conceded that changes have been made and continue to be made in how the FIPSE-funded project has been administered. But overall, she said, those involved feel the program will achieve its objectives.

"No other school that we know of is doing a personal learning plan or doing assessment primarily for the benefit of students," she said.

"The information they're giving us, we give them back, hopefully with some good advice attached," she concluded.

